

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 14 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, and 14 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, numbered paragraphs 3-7, claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part: "an adding unit adding the accepted selection searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding unit adding the additional information of which accepted the selection by the additional information selection unit, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information." Independent claims 6, 10, and 14 have been amended in similar fashion.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 AND REMARKS:

A. In the Office Action, at pages 3-5, numbered paragraphs 9-11, claims (apparently claims 1-2) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629; hereafter, Gotou) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099; hereafter, Tada). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part:

wherein the keyword is at least one of:

- a character string delimited by the start point and the end point;
- information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient;
- a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission,
- an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time; or
- a character string delimited by the start point and the end point, wherein one of:

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are perfectly coincident with each other;

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are coincident forwards; or

a value given by (a number of words used in common throughout respective titles of saved mail)/(a total number of words) is obtained, and the value is equal to or greater than a predetermined value.

Independent claims 6, 10 and 14 have been amended in similar fashion.

These amendments are supported in that the features of claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into claim 1, the features of claims 7 and 8 have been incorporated into claim 6, and the features of claims 11 and 12 have been incorporated into claim 10. Also paragraphs [0118] and [0159-162] of the specification further support said amendments.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Gotou nor Tada teaches or suggests utilizing the keyword as is set forth in amended independent claim 1. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099). Since claim 2 depends from amended independent claim 1, claim 2 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099) for at least the reasons amended independent claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099). In the event that the Examiner also meant to reject claims 3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14, claims 3, 7-8, and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 5 is also submitted to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099) for at least the reasons amended independent claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099).

B. In the Office Action, at pages 5-11, numbered paragraphs 12-22, claims 3, 5-8, 10-12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629; hereafter, Gotou) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099; hereafter, Tada), and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769; hereafter, Rast). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As noted above, independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Also as noted above, it is respectfully submitted that neither Gotou nor Tada teaches or suggests utilizing the keyword as is set forth in amended independent claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 of the present invention.

The Examiner admits that "Gotou or Tada does not explicitly disclose wherein the keyword extraction unit extracts, as a keyword, a data and time recorded in relative time since a data and time of transmission, an absolute data and time obtained from the present data and time, or the present data and time."

Rast teaches delivering email at a predetermined time based on a delivery date set forth in the email. However, it is respectfully submitted that Rast does not teach or suggest a keyword having a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time, as is recited in amended independent claim 1, and similarly in independent claims 6, 10 and 14 of the present invention. That is, lines 6-9 of paragraph [010] of Rast merely recites: "A node or ISP mail server on the network receives the email, extracts the data and recipient information and retains the message, thereafter delivering it according to the predetermined time."

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that, in FIG. 2 and paragraph [0036] of Rast, set forth below for the convenience of the Examiner, Rast teaches:

[0036] FIG. 2 is a flowchart of method steps according to an embodiment of the present invention showing the process from email composition to delivery at the selected time. (emphasis added)

Further, paragraph [0010], set forth for the convenience of the Examiner, of Rast recites:

[0010] The present invention is a system and method for sending email messages which are to be delivered at a selected time, and thereby temporally displaced from the time at which they were created and sent by the sender. Messages are addressed and a delivery date set whereupon the email is sent on the network. A node or ISP mail server on the network receives the email, extracts the date and recipient information and retains the message, thereafter delivering it according to the predetermined time. The sender can compose the email from any email composition package and need not log onto a web site or be connected to the internet when the message is sent at the selected time. (emphasis added)

It is respectfully submitted that Rast does not teach or suggest utilizing the keyword as is set forth in amended independent claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 of the present invention.

Thus, even if combined, Gotou, Tada, and Rast do not teach or suggest amended independent claims 1, 6, 10 and/or 14 of the present invention. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 of the present invention are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099), and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769). Since claim 5 depends from amended independent claim 1, claim 5 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099), and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769) for at least the reasons amended independent claim 1 is patentable

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gotou (USPN 7,085,629) in view of Tada (USPN 7,080,099), and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769).

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

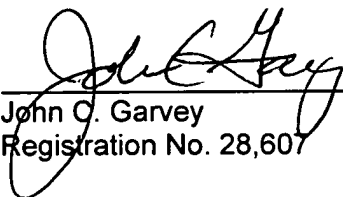
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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